



Buckingham Playgroup Newsletter 2nd November - 18th December 2020



Welcome back to the new half-term. We hope you all enjoyed the October break.

ALL ABOUT ME FORM – if your child would like to share anything from home with us, please complete the attached form. It is lovely to hear more about their home life and what they like to do outside of playgroup

Co-op Local Community Fund - We are lucky to have been selected by the Co-op for the second year running, as one of their charities for the Local Community Fund for the next 12 months (25th October 2020 – 23rd October 2021). If you are a Co-op member, you can choose Buckingham Playgroup through your online account so we will receive 1% every time you buy selected own-branded products. If you are not a member, all you need to do is sign up for Co-op membership and then choose Buckingham Playgroup as your cause for the next year. If you already have a card, just go online and select us as your local cause.

To get us ready for the launch, please can all our supporters, volunteers, friends and family become Co-op Members. You can join online at <https://membership.coop.co.uk/new-registration>.

For more info: <https://www.coop.co.uk/membership/local-causes>

Amazon Smile – By logging into Amazon via the following link www.smile.amazon.co.uk when you shop, the Playgroup is registered to receive charitable donations through Amazon smile which will donate a percentage of the purchase price, on orders made with Amazon. If you would like to support our Playgroup all you have to do is select “Buckingham Playgroup” as your chosen charity on your Amazon account.

Easyfundraising - Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your Christmas shopping, weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for Buckingham Playgroup? There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to donate, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, the trainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/buckinghamplaygroup and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will donate to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

We are very grateful for your support and thank you in advance!

Extra sessions over the Christmas period - We know that Christmas is a very busy time, and should you wish to book additional sessions, please email the playgroup at buckingham.playgroup@yahoo.com to check availability. Extra sessions will need to be paid for in advance or on the morning/afternoon of the session being attended via our bank account.

Progress Reviews - We are sure you will understand we are unable to conduct traditional face to face parent consultations at this time but if you would like to book in a telephone conversation, please email us and we will arrange a convenient time to call.

Christmas Bags for sale 14th – 18th December – We will be selling Christmas bags all week for £5, all creations made by the children. All proceeds will go towards resources for the playgroup.

Christmas Party – Friday 18th December (9.00am – 12.00pm) - This year we are very excited to have Sarah Grice, our Yoga Teacher as our Christmas Entertainer. There will also be a visit from Father Christmas, carol singing, party food and a present for each child. All children are invited to attend, and parental supervision will not be required. The ticket price is £3 for children who normally attend on a Friday and £7 for children who do not usually attend on a Friday. This is purely to cover the cost of the entertainer, staffing, presents and party food for the children. A party invite will be sent later in the term

Reminders

COVID Symptoms – Please follow the Government Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Illness - Please do not send your child if they are unwell. If a child needs Calpol they should not come to playgroup. Please remember that if children have a sickness or diarrhoea bug, they should be kept away from playgroup for 48 hours after their last symptoms.

Prompt Payment of Fees- Please remember that fees are payable in advance, at the beginning of each new half term. Any additional sessions requested on an ad hoc basis are payable before each session/lunch club. These will not be included in your half termly invoices. Please either transfer online or place a cheque in an envelope with your child's name on the front and give to a member of staff at the start of the half term/session. We do not accept cash payment for fees.

Parents reconfirming their Extended Free Entitlement eligibility for Nursery (30 Hours) - Parents who have already received their eligibility code for Extended FE must re-confirm eligibility every three months. Parents should receive a text or email reminder alert from the HMRC before their reconfirmation date and again 2 weeks before. However, we have had reports that this is not happening consistently, and parents are unknowingly dropping out of eligibility. If parents miss the reconfirmation deadline, they will receive a message telling them that their eligibility has lapsed, and that they now fall into their grace period. Therefore, please don't forget to reconfirm your eligibility every three months and to regularly check your secure email box on the HMRC government gateway site, rather than relying on your personal email inbox for reminders.

Absences/Holidays - If you have booked a holiday or know your child will be absent from playgroup, please could you email playgroup to let us know. This will enable us to offer places to children who may require extra sessions.

Parents applying for a school place September 2021 - If your child is eligible to start school in September 2021 you must apply online at www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions. Free internet access to apply for a school place is available in all West Sussex libraries and Children and Family Centres for parents who do not have access to the internet. The deadline for receipt of all applications is Friday 15th January 2020 Any application received after the deadline will be deemed late and will not be processed until after all prompt applications have been considered.

Naming belongings - Please can you leave a named bag with a complete change of clothes for your child in case of accidents. Initials of your child on the outside of a bag/lunch box really helps the staff when sorting out bags to go home at the end of a session. Please make sure your children's coats and water bottles are also named.

Packed Lunches - No foods containing nuts are allowed in your child's packed lunch box, including chocolate spread.

Enjoy the term.

Cheryl Lansley and the Team

(P.S- We return to playgroup after the Christmas break on Monday 4th January 2021)

Don't forget to "like" our Buckingham Playgroup Facebook page!